

Claims

- [1] A backlight device comprising:
light guide means, having a pair of main surfaces faced each other and a pair of edge surfaces faced each other, for guiding the light from a light source arranged on one edge surface to both of main surfaces; and
control means for controlling said light source for illuminating a main lighting region having relatively large size on a side of one main surface through said light guide means, and illuminating a sub-lighting region having relatively small size on a side of another main surface through said light guide means.
- [2] The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said controlling means comprises mode select means for selecting either a mode of illuminating the main lighting region or a mode of illuminating the sub-lighting region; and switch means for switching the power supply to said light source according to the mode selected by said mode select means.
- [3] The device as claimed in claim 2, wherein said switch means supplies the whole light source with the electric power in the mode of illuminating the main lighting region, and supplies a part of the light source with the electric power in the mode of lighting to the sub-lighting region.
- [4] The device as claimed in claim 2, wherein said light source has a plurality of LEDs arranged in parallel, said switch means supplies LEDs having higher contribution to the illumination with the electric power in the mode of illuminating the sub-lighting region.
- [5] The device as claimed in claim 4, wherein said LEDs having higher contribution to the illumination are center-located LEDs of the plurality of LEDs arranged in parallel.
- [6] The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said light guide means has diffusion means and an isotropic prism member on both of the main surfaces respectively.
- [7] The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said light guide means has a semi-transparent reflective member on the main surface of the sub-lighting region side.
- [8] A liquid crystal display device having a backlight device as claimed in claims 1 to 7.